

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

OCTOBER 2003



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September Local Labor Scene

The September seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **La Crosse Metropolitan Area** was 4.1 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point as compared to August's reading. This year's September rate is one-tenth of a percentage point lower than the September 2002 estimate.

All eight Western Counties experienced declining unadjusted unemployment rates in September, joining the 71 of Wisconsin's 72 counties that had lower unadjusted unemployment rates in September than in August.

As compared to last September, nonfarm employment has increased by 2.1 percent in Western Wisconsin, an increase of 1,400 jobs over the year. Statewide, nonfarm employment declined two-tenths of a percentage point over the last 12 months, a loss of 5,500 jobs.

Statewide Notes

Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated to be 5.7 percent in September, two-tenths of a percentage point lower than August's estimate and two-tenths higher than the September 2002 estimate. Wisconsin's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September

dropped over the month half a percentage point to 4.9 percent.

National Notes

The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in September, unchanged from August and four-tenths higher than the rate recorded for September 2002.

Nationally, employers initiated 868 mass layoff actions in September 2003, according to data from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Each action involved at least 50 persons from a single establishment, and the number of workers effected totaled 82,647.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	La Crosse * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: September 2003			
Civilian Labor Force	76,100	3,104.9	146,545
Employment	73,000	2,927.6	137,573
Unemployment	3,100	177.3	8,973
Unemployment rate	4.1%	5.7%	6.1%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	100	1.6	15
Employment	-2,700	6.8	(52)
Unemployment	-200	-5.2	68
Unemployment rate	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.0%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	1,700	81.3	911
Employment	1,800	71.1	261
Unemployment	-100	10.2	652
Unemployment rate	-0.1%	0.2%	0.4%
<i>Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.</i>			
<i>* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota</i>			

With fewer layoffs in long distance freight trucking, temporary help services, and department stores compared with September 2002, the number of layoff events and the number of initial claims were down sharply, falling to their lowest levels for September since 1999. From January through September 2003, the total number of events, at 14,073, and the number of initial claims, at 1,399,510, were lower than the January-September period a year ago.

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

September 2003	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA*	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	7,740	10,610	12,210	10,850	63,810	21,690	16,070	14,170	157,150	93,340	3,087,180
Employed	7,450	10,190	11,800	10,000	61,650	20,470	15,410	13,540	150,500	88,850	2,936,410
Unemployed	280	430	410	850	2,160	1,230	670	630	6,650	4,490	150,770
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	4.0%	3.3%	7.8%	3.4%	5.6%	4.1%	4.5%	4.2%	4.8%	4.9%
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	5,100	8,200	8,700	9,100	68,700	18,400	13,700	8,400	140,200	71,500	2,788,100
Total Private	4,200	7,100	5,700	7,000	59,800	14,000	11,400	6,400	115,500	55,800	2,392,100
Goods Producing	500	1,600	1,900	2,400	11,800	3,800	5,800	1,200	29,100	17,300	641,800
Service Producing	4,600	6,500	6,800	6,600	56,900	14,600	7,800	7,200	111,100	54,200	2,146,300
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	170	270	1,110	280	2,800	590	310	250	5,800	3,000	127,700
Manufacturing	300	1,400	800	2,200	9,000	3,300	5,500	900	23,300	14,400	514,100
Trade	500	2,300	1,000	1,200	12,000	3,000	1,500	1,700	23,100	11,100	436,400
Transportation & Utilities	1,800	200	800	400	2,000	1,700	600	300	7,700	5,700	317,900
Financial Activities	160	200	240	250	3,600	600	350	380	5,800	2,200	158,700
Education and Health Services	600	1,100	600	1,200	12,600	1,700	1,100	1,500	20,400	7,800	366,500
Leisure & Hospitality	500	1,000	900	1,100	7,000	1,800	1,000	700	13,900	6,900	248,400
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	200	700	300	500	10,800	1,400	1,000	600	15,600	4,800	434,600
Total Government	900	1,050	2,980	2,110	8,910	4,450	2,270	1,990	24,700	15,700	396,000
Federal	170	70	60	250	450	2,200	130	110	3,450	3,000	28,500
State	20	210	440	580	2,160	230	40	50	3,730	1,570	99,600
Local	700	780	2,480	1,280	6,300	2,020	2,100	1,830	17,480	11,180	267,900
Change from one month ago	August 2003										
Civilian Labor Force**	60	-400	-160	-300	200	-120	-210	-590	-1,500	-1,700	-44,700
Employed	100	-330	-130	-190	500	10	-110	-490	-600	-1,100	-25,300
Unemployed	-40	-70	-30	-110	-300	-130	-110	-100	-900	-600	-19,400
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.5	-0.5	-0.2	-0.8	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	60	-210	-30	-110	600	140	20	-230	300	-300	-10,400
Percent change NFWS from last month	1.3%	-2.5%	-0.3%	-1.1%	0.9%	0.8%	0.2%	-2.6%	0.2%	-0.5%	-0.4%
Total Private	-40	-100	-100	-100	-200	-100	-120	-80	-900	-700	-29,000
Goods Producing	-10	-80	0	0	-200	100	-80	-10	-400	-200	-10,300
Service Producing	70	-130	0	-100	800	100	100	-210	700	-100	-100
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	0	-10	-40	-10	-100	-20	-10	-20	-200	-100	-3,400
Manufacturing	0	-70	0	0	-100	80	-70	10	-200	-100	-6,900
Trade	-10	80	0	0	0	-20	-10	-40	0	0	-5,600
Transportation & Utilities	-10	0	0	40	0	10	20	0	100	100	-5,100
Financial Activities	0	-10	-10	0	0	0	-20	-10	0	0	-500
Education and Health Services	0	-20	-30	0	200	-10	-10	20	100	0	2,900
Leisure & Hospitality	-10	-80	-40	-100	-200	-150	-50	-20	-600	-400	-13,400
Svcs	0	0	-10	0	0	-30	30	-10	0	0	-3,600
Total Government	110	-110	110	-10	810	270	140	-150	1,200	400	18,600
Federal	-10	-10	0	0	0	-50	0	0	-100	-100	-100
State	0	0	10	0	450	0	0	0	500	0	6,700
Local	110	-100	100	-10	360	330	150	-150	800	400	12,000
Change from one year ago	September 2002										
Civilian Labor Force**	220	250	490	340	1,700	1,320	660	270	5,200	3,500	79,000
Employed	150	180	470	230	1,700	970	610	210	4,600	2,800	66,600
Unemployed	70	70	20	100	0	340	50	60	700	700	12,400
Unemployment rate(%)	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.7	-0.1	1.3	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.3
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	130	20	200	30	620	360	360	80	1,500	1,400	-5,500
Percent change NFWS from last year	2.7%	0.2%	2.3%	0.3%	0.1%	3.5%	2.7%	1.0%	1.1%	2.1%	-0.2%
Total Private	130	90	100	100	500	700	400	100	2,100	1,600	2,000
Goods Producing	80	-230	100	-100	-300	0	200	0	-300	-100	-24,800
Service Producing	50	250	100	200	300	700	200	100	1,800	1,500	19,300
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	20	10	60	0	-200	-30	-30	-30	-200	0	-7,900
Manufacturing	60	-240	0	-100	-100	-20	190	50	-200	-100	-16,800
Trade	-10	160	0	0	100	390	80	100	800	700	6,600
Transportation & Utilities	40	10	0	30	-200	140	10	20	100	300	3,200
Financial Activities	0	10	10	10	200	10	10	20	300	100	5,100
Education and Health Services	-30	30	0	100	200	60	40	60	400	200	8,200
Leisure & Hospitality	40	80	100	200	0	160	100	0	600	600	1,900
Svcs	0	40	-100	0	500	-40	-40	-80	300	-200	5,700
Total Government	0	-70	80	-80	-450	-60	-10	-50	-600	-200	-7,500
Federal	0	-10	0	-30	-90	-110	0	0	-200	-100	-800
State	0	0	0	10	-180	-30	0	0	-200	0	1,000
Local	10	-70	80	-60	-180	80	-10	-50	-200	0	-7,700

* Seven counties, excluding La Crosse County ** Includes participants residing in area. *** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.
Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/>
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